

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: UK SHOWS MISSION TABLES ON WP AIR DEFENSE STRUCTURE

REF: A. STATE 130942; B. STATE 125561

1. PRIOR TO JUNE 21 WG MEETING UK REPS (MG ABRAHAMS AND COL. GEHRATY) CONFERRED WITH US REP IN MISSION TO GO OVER SCENARIO FOR INTRODUCING DATA CONTAINED IN REFS (A) AND (B). SINCE UK REPS ON WG COME FROM MOD/FCO, THIS WAS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER SCOPE AND EXPLANATIONS CONTAINED IN US SUBMISSION, ALTHOUGH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY CONFIRMED THROUGH UK DEL THAT FIGURES IN REFS (A) AND (B) COINCIDED WITH UK (AND FRG) HOLDINGS.

2. ON EXAMINING US TABLES, UK REPS IMMEDIATELY POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH REF (A) DATA WAS INTENDED TO FILL IN GAPS IN ANNEX B OF WG'S DATA REPORT, IT DID NOT INCLUDE RESOLUTION OF WP AIR DEFENSE ISSUES, WHICH WERE CENTRAL PROBLEM AND, ACCORDING TO
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UK, ESSENTIAL FOR EXPLAINING SOME (ALTHOUGH NOT ALL) INCREASES IN OVERALL WP GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER STRENGTH IN NGA, AS THEY APPEAR IN REF (B) AND WITH WHICH UK FULLY AGREED.

3. UK REPS THEREUPON PRODUCED THEIR OWN TABLES ON WP AIR DEFENSE SECTOR, WHICH THEY ASSERTED WERE FULLY AGREED IN WASHINGTON DURING RECENT DOUBLE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. WE ARE TRANSMITTING THESE TABLES SEPTTEL. UK REPS FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT THEY INTRODUCE THEIR TABLES AT WG MEETING ALONG WITH US TABLES, SINCE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXPLANATION WOULD BE MOST LIKELY WAY TO GET OTHER ALLIES TO AGREE TO NEW TOTALS. US REP SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS ON AIR DEFENSE SECTOR, BUT THAT WASHINGTON HAD STATED ITS PREFERENCE TO HAVE WG CONSIDER AGGREGATES ONLY, LEAVING DETAILED BREAKDOWNS TO BE AGREED THROUGH FORMAL NATO INTELLIGENCE PROCESSES LATER THIS YEAR.

4. UK REPS SAID THEY WERE POSITIVE UK TABLES WERE AGREED, THAT TABLES REPRESENTED ESSENTIALLY US DATA, AND THAT LONDON, AT LEAST, HAD BEEN OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ALL DETAILS WERE AGREED IN WASHINGTON. HAVING IN MIND PARA (2) OF REF (A), US REP WAS THEN OBLIGED TO SAY THAT HE HAD IMPRESSION THERE MIGHT BE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, UK AND FRG ON BREAKDOWNS OF AGGREGATES, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO DETAILS AVAILABLE. US REP FURTHER SAID HE COULD NOT ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH UK TABLES UNTIL HE HAD CHECKED WITH WASHINGTON. UK REPS FOUND THIS PERPLEXING, SINCE THEY THOUGHT TABLES WERE FULLY AGREED, BUT IN WASHINGTON AGREED NOT TO PUT FORWARD THEIR TABLES DURING WG MEETING. US REP THANKED UK REPS AND PROMISED TO SEEK EARLY CLARIFICATION REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES.

5. COMMENT: ABSENCE OF SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED AIR DEFENSE DATA WAS IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP BY CANADA AND NETHERLANDS DURING WG MEETING (DETAILS SEPTTEL), AND EFFECTIVELY PREVENTED US FROM GAINING ALLIED AGREEMENT TO FORWARDING NEW AGGREGATES TO SPC AT THIS TIME. CANADA, NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK ARE FIRMLY OF VIEW THAT AGGREGATES SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED UNTIL BREAKDOWNS ARE EITHER SHOWN, OR SCOPE OF ANY DIFFERENCES CLEARLY EXPLAINED. IF DIFFERENCES REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 REF (A) ARE MINOR, MISSION THINKS A VERBAL EXPLANATION MAY SUFFICE, BUT SEEKING FORMAL AGREEMENT ON DETAILS IN A LATER INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE WILL VERY LIKELY DELAY OUR OBTAINING ACCEPTANCE OF REF (B)

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DATA FOR EARLY TRANSMISSION TO AHG. APPRECIATE WASHINGTON REACTION AND ANYTHING WE CAN SAY TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. END COMMENT.

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